12th August 1954]

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Mr. Ramaswami Mudaliar has stated that it affects the consumers and it is because the proper quality of salt is not made available to them when it is sold by measure. Merchants are not interested in improving the quality of salt because when it is sold by measure, merchants and producers do not worry about the quality. Good quality salt is more dense and if it is sold by weight, then the merchants will be interested in preparing the proper quality of salt."

Sri K. VINAYAKAM :—" What are the reasons which weighed with the Government in reverting to the weight system? I know that the merchant community was not at all consulted before embarking upon the new system of sale by weight and that due publicity was not given to it with the result that the public had no say in the matter at all."

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" There is no question of reverting. The method now adopted is selling by measure. We want weight to be adopted in future. So, there is no question of reverting to weight."

[* 1306 Q.—" Answered with starred question No. 1284."]

Amount of taxes and fees due to municipalities allowed to become time-barred.

* 1307 Q.—Sri K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state the total amount of taxes and fees due to municipalities on 31st March 1953 that were allowed to become time-barred without any coercive steps prescribed in the Act having been taken?

The Hon. Sri S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" The Examiner of Local Fund Accounts has reported that taxes and fees aggregating to Rs. 2,19,388-0-5 on 31st March 1953 were allowed to become time-barred in all the sixty-one municipalities in the State without the coercive steps prescribed in the Act having been taken for their realization."

Provision of sanitary amenities to the slums in the City.

* 1308 Q.—Sri A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(a) the amount spent by the Director of Harijan Welfare for the provision of sanitary amenities to the slums in the City during the year 1952;

(b) why the Government issued instructions to the Director of Harijan Welfare directing him not to proceed with providing sanitary amenities in the Government slums;

(c) whether the Corporation of Madras is providing sanitary amenities in the Government slums;